



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Johnny L. Thomas, 18th District

Vice-Chair, Finance & Audit Committee

For Immediate Release July 19, 2010

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S JOB CREATION EFFORTS FALL SHORT

Key economic development position sits vacant for nearly seven months

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Supervisor Johnny L. Thomas released the following statement calling on County Executive Scott Walker to fill a vacant position aimed at creating jobs and spurring economic development within Milwaukee County:

“The single most important issue facing Milwaukee County is the creation, retention and protection of jobs. The reckless economic policies of the past have decimated our workforce, resulting in declining revenue and a population looking for leadership when it comes to jobs. Unfortunately, Scott Walker’s campaign rhetoric on jobs does not match his actions as Milwaukee County Executive.

“In the midst of the worst jobs crisis since the Great Depression, County Executive Walker has let a key economic development position sit vacant for nearly seven months. The County Executive had abolished the position of Economic Development Director in the 2009 Budget, but the position was re-created in the 2010 Budget to coordinate the County’s Economic Development activities. The County Board allocated full funding in the budget to fill this position, yet it continues to sit vacant.

“I am calling on the County Executive to fill this position with a qualified individual immediately. Historically, the County Executive has tapped campaign operatives, including Tim Russell and Bob Dennik, to fill the position. Both appointees ran the department into the ground, and the position was abolished.

“Milwaukee County needs leadership when it comes to jobs creation. Now, more than ever, with the economic challenges facing County residents, we need to do everything we can to spur additional economic development. The bottom line is that the Economic Development Director position should be filled right now.

“As I indicated in a letter to the County Executive earlier this month, I am willing to help get the ball rolling by identifying qualified candidates and presenting plans for action as Wisconsin and Milwaukee County work their way out of the recession.”

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